UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/802,944	03/12/2001	Toshiaki Shimada	1163-0332P	2645

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EXAMINER
TRAN, PHUOC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2621	

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/802,944	TOSHIAKI
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phuoc Tran	2621	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1 and 8* is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) *2-7 and 9-15* is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

        1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) *3* .   6) ☐ Other: .

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2.   Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoyama [Patent No.

6,014,095].

Yokoyama discloses a variable length coding unit comprising: a run length converter for

converting block data consisting of a plurality of image signal into combined data in accordance

with scanning sequence, each of the combined data including a number of consecutive

insignificant coefficients and a value of a significant coefficient next to the consecutive

insignificant coefficients (Fig. 6, items 121, 122; col. 9, lines 29-38; zero-run followed by level

corresponds to insignificant coefficients followed by significant coefficient); a table memory for

storing a variable length code and its code length corresponding to the combined data at an

address corresponding to the combined data (Fig. 5, item 106; Fig. 13, item 13; col. 9, lines

1-12); and a variable length encoder for reading the variable length code and its code length from

said table memory in accordance with the combined data converted by said run-length converter

and for carrying out variable length coding of the variable length code by cutting it from the read

data in accordance with the code length (Fig. 5, item 106; Fig. 13; col. 9, lines 1-12; col. 14, line

33 – col. 15, line 33).

2.   Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuzawa [Patent No.

5,933,536].

Fukuzawa discloses a variable length decoding unit comprising: a bit stream register for

storing a received bit stream (Fig. 4, item 2; col. 7, lines 1-3); a table memory for storing a code

length of each variable length code in connection with combined data including a number of

consecutive insignificant coefficients and a value of a significant coefficient next to the

consecutive insignificant coefficients in accordance with a scanning sequence of block data

consisting of a plurality of image signals (Fig. 4, item 8, col. 7, lines 23-43; lines 49-53; zero-run

followed by level corresponds to insignificant coefficients followed by significant coefficient); a

data reader for reading a predetermined number of bits from said bit stream register (Fig. 7, item

6, col. 7, lines 13-26); an address generator for generating an address of said table memory from

data read from said data reader; and a variable length decoder for reading from the address of

said table memory generated by said address generator, and for carrying out variable length

decoding by cutting from the data the number of the consecutive insignificant coefficients, the

value of the significant coefficient and the code length of the variable length code (Fig. 4, items

6, 8; col. 7, lines 49-65; run length and level are combined as address to the decoding table 8).

3.   Claims 2-7 and 9-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but

would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base

claim and any intervening claims.

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Phuoc Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4861. The examiner can

normally be reached on 9:30 AM-6:00 PM from Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Leo H. Boudreau, can be reached on (703) 305-4706.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

PHUOC TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER